



MATTAPOISETT

Plymouth County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Mattapoisett is a resort town on Buzzard's Bay which was incorporated in 1857. The first settlements in the town were seasonal as European colonists used sites in the area as fishing camps. The draw for both Indians and colonials were the rich fish, shellfish, water-fowl and game possibilities of the town as well as the seasonal eel and fish runs on the Mattapoisett River and eel ponds. Historians believe that the sheltered harbor may have been used by European explorers long before any settlements in the community. There are some Indian burial sites.

The earliest settlements after the King Philip wars occurred around 1680 with residents dealing in lumbering, tar and turpentine production. Shipbuilding was established around 1740 and before the Civil War the principal businesses in the town were shipbuilding and whaling, with four shipyards in operation before 1800. The town traded with Nantucket, Newport, New York and Savannah and a shipping complex was developed at the head of Mattapoisett Harbor in the first half of the 18th century. There were few streams and therefore few mills using water power in town, but by 1855 there were 16 whaling ships in operation. Those residents who were not involved in the maritime trades farmed and raised sheep.

The death of the whaling and shipbuilding industry in the 1870's followed the discovery of oil in Pennsylvania, and resort development replaced both. The town's mainstay became agriculture and tourists through the early 20th century. An influx of well-to-do summer residents built summer homes on big estates, not in densely packed groupings as in some other shore communities. There has been some suburban growth and development in the town, but Mattapoisett still contains gracious summer homes and hosts many summer visitors.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Fairhaven and Acushnet on the west, Rochester on the north, Marion on the east, and Buzzards Bay on the south. Mattapoisett is 6 miles east of New Bedford; 56 miles south of Boston; 39 miles southeast of Providence, and 213 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 23.33 sq. miles

Land Area: 16.48 sq. miles

Population: 5,850

Density: 355 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Rochester Station)

Normal temperature in January.....26.3°F
Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F
Normal annual precipitation.....48.2"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Marion, Sconticut Neck, Onset

Regional Planning Agency

Southeastern Regional Planning and
Economic Development District

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

New Bedford



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 758-4103

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen
Executive Secretary
Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1857

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%
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Total Registered 4,002

Democrats 990 24.7 % Republicans 720 18.0 % Other parties 2 0.0 % Unenrolled Voters 2,290 57.2 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Mattapoisett town, Plymouth County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	6,268	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	6,268	100.0
Male.....	3,003	47.9	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	36	0.6
Female.....	3,265	52.1	Mexican.....	4	0.1
Under 5 years.....	332	5.3	Puerto Rican.....	5	0.1
5 to 9 years.....	431	6.9	Cuban.....	3	-
10 to 14 years.....	463	7.4	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	24	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	362	5.8	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	6,232	99.4
20 to 24 years.....	187	3.0	White alone.....	6,017	96.0
25 to 34 years.....	587	9.4	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,045	16.7	Total population.....	6,268	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,069	17.1	In households.....	6,229	99.4
55 to 59 years.....	433	6.9	Householder.....	2,532	40.4
60 to 64 years.....	316	5.0	Spouse.....	1,461	23.3
65 to 74 years.....	570	9.1	Child.....	1,826	29.1
75 to 84 years.....	342	5.5	Own child under 18 years.....	1,402	22.4
85 years and over.....	131	2.1	Other relatives.....	202	3.2
Median age (years).....	42.5	(X)	Under 18 years.....	72	1.1
18 years and over.....	4,772	76.1	Nonrelatives.....	208	3.3
Male.....	2,246	35.8	Unmarried partner.....	117	1.9
Female.....	2,526	40.3	In group quarters.....	39	0.6
21 years and over.....	4,644	74.1	Institutionalized population.....	24	0.4
62 years and over.....	1,238	19.8	Noninstitutionalized population.....	15	0.2
65 years and over.....	1,043	16.6	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	446	7.1	Total households.....	2,532	100.0
Female.....	597	9.5	Family households (families).....	1,771	69.9
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	764	30.2
One race.....	6,208	99.0	Married-couple family.....	1,461	57.7
White.....	6,049	96.5	With own children under 18 years.....	590	23.3
Black or African American.....	39	0.6	Female householder, no husband present.....	242	9.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	8	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	136	5.4
Asian.....	41	0.7	Nonfamily households.....	761	30.1
Asian Indian.....	4	0.1	Householder living alone.....	645	25.5
Chinese.....	27	0.4	Householder 65 years and over.....	322	12.7
Filipino.....	3	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	809	32.0
Japanese.....	1	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	754	29.8
Korean.....	5	0.1	Average household size.....	2.46	(X)
Vietnamese.....	1	-	Average family size.....	2.97	(X)
Other Asian ¹	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-	Total housing units.....	3,172	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	2,532	79.8
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	640	20.2
Samoa.....	2	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	538	17.0
Some other race.....	69	1.1	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.6	(X)
Two or more races.....	60	1.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.9	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races:³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	2,532	100.0
White.....	6,095	97.2	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,968	77.7
Black or African American.....	62	1.0	Renter-occupied housing units.....	564	22.3
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	18	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.58	(X)
Asian.....	47	0.7	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.02	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	3	-			
Some other race.....	108	1.7			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	64
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Mattapoisett, which is situated in the New Bedford-Fall River Area, is served by the airport and port facilities of New Bedford. In addition, Interstate 195 and State Routes 24 and 140 provide access to the airports, ports, and intermodal facilities of Providence and Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 6 and Interstate Route 195, which link the southern coastal cities and towns.

Rail

There is no freight rail service in Mattapoisett, but the network of intermodal facilities serving eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island is easily accessible.

Bus

Mattapoisett is a member of the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA), which provides fixed route service between New Bedford, Fairhaven, and Mattapoisett. SRTA and the Council on Aging also provide paratransit services for the elderly and disabled.

Other

The New Bedford Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial Service (PR) facility with scheduled passenger service, is easily accessible. The airport has 2 asphalt runways 4,997' and 5,000' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

(American Association of Museums)

MUSEUMS

Mattapoisett Museum and Carriage House
5 Church Street
(508) 758-2844

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)

[The UMass Dartmouth Theatre Company](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Mattapoissett Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.